

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel Claim 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new Claim 20.

Please find the current status of the claims, as of the filing of this amendment paper, as follows:

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended) An improved automatic fish hook apparatus formed from a single wire comprising:

a first shank having a distal end;

a second shank having a distal end;

a tensioner disposed intermediate said first shank and said second shank at about the middle of said single piece of wire; and

a catch, integral to said first shank, comprising an offset disposed about said first shank, and releasably in communication with said second shank,

wherein

said first shank and said second shank having a first state and a second state, said first state disposing said first shank and said second shank in substantially parallel planes and said second state disposing said first shank and said second shank crossed once, whereby in said first state, said first shank and said second shank depend down from said tensioner, and whereby

said catch maintains said first shank and said second shank in said second state wherein said distal end of said first shank being at least partially obscured by said second shank and said distal end of said second shank being at least partially obscured by said first shank by crossing said distal ends of the respective shanks, and further whereby

upon the application of two generally opposing forces applied about said first shank and said second shank, said first shank and said second shank are released into said first state, wherein the two generally opposing forces are independent of any pulling force exerted

upon said fish hook apparatus.

2. (Original) The improved fish hook of Claim 1, whereby in said first state, said respective distal ends, of said first shank and said second shank, being positioned in opposing directions.
3. (Original) The improved fish hook of Claim 1, wherein said first shank comprises a first hook having a distal end.
4. (Original) The improved fish hook of Claim 3, wherein said first hook further comprises a barb disposed about said distal end of said first hook.
5. (Original) The improved fish hook of Claim 1, wherein said second shank comprises a second hook having a distal end.
6. (Original) The improved fish hook of Claim 5, wherein said second hook further comprises a barb disposed about said distal end of said second hook.
7. (Original) The improved fish hook of Claim 1, wherein said tensioner comprises a spring.
8. (Original) The improved fish hook of Claim 1, wherein said tensioner comprises a coil.

9. (Original) The improved fish hook of claim 1, wherein said tensioner comprises one or more coils of said single wire.

10. (Original) The improved fish hook of Claim 1, further comprising a prong along each of said first shank and said second shank.

11. (Original) The improved fish hook of Claim 1, further comprising an eyelet disposed about and intermediate said first shank and said second shank.

12. (Original) The improved fish hook of Claim 1, wherein said single wire comprises a metal.

13. (Original) The improved fish hook of Claim 12, wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of steel, iron, aluminum, copper, an alloy of steel, an alloy of iron, an alloy of aluminum, an alloy of copper and combinations thereof.

14. (Original) The improved fish hook of Claim 1, wherein said single wire comprises a composite material.

15. (Currently amended) An improved releasably biasable apparatus formed from a single piece of wire comprising:

a first shank having a distal end;

a second shank having a distal;

a tensioner disposed intermediate said first shank and said second shank at about the middle

of said single piece of wire; and

a catch, integral to said first shank, comprising an offset disposed about said first shank, and releasably in communication with said second shank,

wherein

said first shank and said second shank having a first state, a second state, and a third state, said first state disposing said first shank and said second shank in substantially parallel planes, said second state disposing said first shank and said second shank crossed, and said third state disposing said first shank and said second shank crossed twice,

whereby

in said first state, said first shank and said second shank depend down from said tensioner, and whereby

said catch maintains said first shank and said second shank in said second state wherein said distal end of said first shank is at least partially obscured by said second shank and said distal end of said second shank is at least partially obscured by said first shank by crossing said distal ends of the respective shanks, and further whereby

upon the application of two generally opposing forces, applied about said first shank and said second shank, said first shank and said second shank are released into said ~~first~~ third state wherein the two generally opposing forces are independent of any pulling force exerted upon said fish hook apparatus ~~whereby in said first state, said first shank and said second shank depend down from said tensioner and are in substantially parallel planes and with said respective distal ends being positioned in opposing directions.~~

16. Cancelled

17. (Currently amended) An improved automatic fish hook apparatus formed from a single wire comprising:

a first shank and a second shank, each having a distal end, and together having a first state and a second state, said first state disposes said first shank and said second shank in substantially parallel planes and depending down from a tensioner and said second state disposes said first shank and said second shank crossed once;

said tensioner being disposed intermediate said first shank and said second shank at about the middle of said single piece of wire; and

a catch, integral to said first shank, comprising an offset disposed about said first shank, and releasably in communication with said second shank,

wherein

said catch maintains said first shank and said second shank in said second state whereby said distal end of said first shank is at least partially obscured by said second shank and said distal end of said second shank is at least partially obscured by said first shank by crossing said distal ends of the respective shanks,

and further wherein upon the application of two generally opposing forces applied about said first shank and said second shank, said first shank and said second shank are released into said first state, whereby in said first state, said first shank and said second shank depend down from said tensioner and are in substantially parallel planes and with said respective distal ends being positioned in opposing directions wherein the two generally opposing forces are independent of any pulling force exerted upon said fish hook apparatus.

18. (Original) The improved fish hook of Claim 17, wherein said first shank comprises a first

hook having a distal end and wherein said second shank comprises a second hook having a distal end.

19. (Original) The improved fish hook of Claim 18, wherein said first shank comprises a first hook having a distal end and wherein said second shank comprises a second hook having a distal end and further wherein said respective distal ends, of said first hook and said second hook, each having a barb disposed about said distal ends.

20. (New) An improved automatic setting fish hook made from a single wire comprising:

a coiled spring having first and second members extending outwardly from the coiled spring, the first member having a curved end such that the end of the wire curves back toward the coiled spring, the second member extending outwardly in a substantially, similar direction to said first member,

said second member having an offset in the wire adjacent to its end such that to cock the automatic hook, the end of the first member is bent inwardly towards the second member, the second member is bent inwardly toward the first member, wherein the second member longitudinally is positioned on one side of the coil and the first member longitudinally is positioned on the other side of the coil, and wherein the offset of the second member, when it is bent inwardly, fits on the other side of the curved end of the first member so that the offset catches the end of the first member so that the first and second members are locked in position relative to each other, whereby when a fish grabs the ends of the members in their mouth, it overcomes the offset catch, and whereby the ends of the first and second members spring back outwardly away from each other to set the hook; and

said first and second members further comprise hooks adjacent to said ends.